

How to Detect a Gas Leak: Essential Tips for Home Safety



Smell



The most obvious sign of a natural gas leak is the smell. We add a harmless substance to natural gas so that it stinks like rotten eggs, making it easier to detect a leak.



Sight



Look for dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green area. Soil may be abnormally dry or hardened.



In wet or flooded areas, there may be continuous bubbling.



Sound



Gas leaks often emit a blowing or hissing sound.



Other signs



If a leak has been ignited, there will be flames.



In certain cases, gas leaks will blow dust from a hole in the ground.

Gas leaks can pose serious risks to your health and safety, including fire hazards and natural gas poisoning. Detecting a gas leak early can prevent accidents and ensure the safety of your home and loved ones.

Here are some essential tips to help you identify a gas leak:

1. Recognize the Smell:

Natural gas is odorless, but gas companies add a chemical called mercaptan to give it a distinctive rotten egg or sulfuric smell. If you notice this odor in your home, it could indicate a gas leak.

2. Listen for Hissing Sounds:

A hissing or whistling noise near gas appliances or pipes can be a sign of a gas leak. This sound is caused by gas escaping from a loose connection or a damaged pipe.

3. Look for Visible Signs:

Check for white dust clouds or bubbles in standing water near gas lines. These can indicate a gas leak. Additionally, dead or dying vegetation around gas lines may also be a sign.

4. Use a Soap Solution:

Mix a solution of soap and water and apply it to the suspected area. If you see bubbles forming, it indicates a gas leak. This method is simple and effective for pinpointing the exact location of the leak.

5. Install Gas Detectors:

Carbon monoxide detectors and natural gas alarms can alert you to the presence of gas in your home. Place these detectors near all gas appliances and regularly check their functionality.

6. Monitor Physical Symptoms:

Exposure to natural gas can cause symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, nausea, and difficulty breathing. If you or your family members experience these symptoms, evacuate your home immediately and seek medical attention.

7. Take Immediate Action:

If you suspect a gas leak, follow these steps: Evacuate your home immediately, opening windows and doors on your way out. **Do not use electrical switches, phones, or anything that could create a spark.** Once you are safely outside, call 911 and your gas company to report the leak.

8. Regular Maintenance:

Regularly inspect and maintain your gas appliances and pipes to prevent leaks. Schedule professional inspections to make sure everything is in good working order.

By following these tips, you can detect gas leaks early and protect your home from potential hazards. Stay vigilant and prioritize safety to keep your household safe.



Zia Natural Gas Company

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RECIPE

Spring Vegetable Risotto

Ingredients

1 cup Arborio rice
4 cups vegetable broth
1 cup dry white wine
1 small onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup peas (fresh or frozen)
1 cup baby spinach
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1 cup asparagus, cut into 1-inch pieces
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
Salt and pepper to taste
Fresh herbs (like parsley or basil) for garnish



Instructions:

1. Heat the broth: In a saucepan, heat the vegetable broth and keep it warm over low heat.
2. Sauté the vegetables: In a large pan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the onion and garlic, and sauté until translucent.
3. Cook the rice: Add the Arborio rice to the pan and stir to coat with the oil. Cook for about 2 minutes until the rice is lightly toasted.
4. Add the wine: Pour in the white wine and stir until it is mostly absorbed by the rice.
5. Add the broth: Begin adding the warm vegetable broth, one ladle at a time, stirring frequently. Wait until the broth is mostly absorbed before adding more. Continue this process until the rice is creamy and cooked through, about 18-20 minutes.
6. Add the vegetables: When the rice is almost done, stir in the asparagus and peas. Cook for a few more minutes until the vegetables are tender.
7. Finish the risotto: Stir in the baby spinach, butter, and Parmesan cheese. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
8. Serve: Garnish with fresh herbs and serve immediately.

Zia Natural Gas Company offers scholarships to 2025 graduating Seniors in each of our operating districts.

Applications and instructions are available through your High School Guidance Counselor or you can visit us online at www.zngc.com and look for the scholarship criteria and application under the *News & Links* tab. Deadline to apply is April 15th, so don't delay!



New Mexico's Natural Choice ... Zia Natural Gas Company proudly celebrating over 30 years of service and looking forward to many more!

Lincoln County

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Community Calendar

Ruidoso

March 15-16th Yucca Blossom Trade Days: Shamrock Showcase This shopping event features a variety of vendors offering handmade crafts, home décor, fashion, and more. Located at Ruidoso Convention Center, Saturday, March 15th 10am-5pm and Sunday, March 16th 11am-4pm.

March 22nd Emerald Isle Come dance and play across the Emerald Isle! Emerald Isle is a thrilling performance that will whisk you away to the picturesque shores of Ireland. Starts at 7pm at Spencer Theatre. Tickets and information at spencertheater.com.

Las Cruces

Mar 7th - April 19th All City High Schools Senior Art Show Students from Mayfield, Las Cruces, Organ Mountain, Centennial, and Alma d'Arte High Schools showcase a wide range of artwork created during their senior year. The show includes 2-D and 3-D art, from ceramics to mixed media, paintings, drawings, and more! Located at Branigan Cultural Arts Center, gallery hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am-4:30pm, Saturday 9am-4:30pm.

March 22nd-23rd Senior Olympics Open to adults 50+. Register online at www.dacso-nm.org. Registration is \$20 and \$5 for each sport event you enter. For more info you can email dacso2211@outlook.com.

March 29th-30th Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo 2025 Take a stroll at the Mesilla Valley Outdoor Expo at the Las Cruces Convention Center. This outdoor expo will have everything available for you to explore hiking, biking, fishing, camping, archery, food trucks, fun games for kids and adults of all ages. Saturday 9am-5pm and Sunday 10am-4pm.

Colfax

Fridays starting March 7th Annual Fish Fry Friday's. Located at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Springer. Runs through April 18th in the Parish Hall from 4pm-6pm. Adults \$9, children under 12 \$5. Take out and local delivery available.

Reminder: We use this section for our local communities. The messages must be non-partisan and non-religious. Non-profit organization messages will be given preference. Please send the information to csifuentes@zngc.com before the 10th of the month to make the following month edition. Thank you.



Natural Gas News

is an official publication of
Zia Natural Gas Company
Published monthly

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